

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
2101 NASA Parkway
Houston, Texas 77058-3696



April 21, 2011

Reply to Attn of: CB-11-029

Captain Ross Mattson
Master, HMB Endeavour
2 Murray Street
Darling Harbour Sydney
NSW 2000 AUSTRALIA

Dear Captain Mattson:

Congratulations and best wishes as you begin your voyage around Australia. We know you and HMB Endeavour will succeed in calling attention to the accomplishments of your vessel's predecessor, the achievements of the more recent past, and our shared hopes for the future.

NASA's Space Shuttle Endeavour is to be in space for approximately two weeks during the early part of your trip. Our launch is scheduled for April 29, 2011, the anniversary of Captain James Cook's 1770 landing at Botany Bay in his Endeavour. Though we will be under way at the same time, our two craft and our destinations are very different. But there is more than just the name Endeavour that we share.

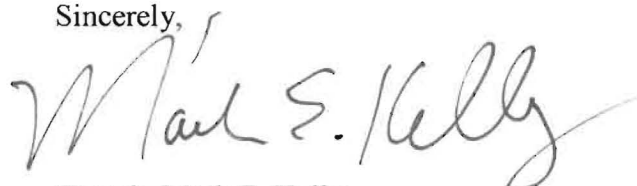
Most importantly, we both believe in the human imperative to explore. Our Space Shuttle and your bark also share at least one small material link from early in their lives – the trunnel you see in Endeavour's great cabin was aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour on its first flight in May 1992. It later became the last treenail hammered into your HMB Endeavour. As we explore, we learn more about ourselves. Captain Cook showed the world how to prevent scurvy. He also interacted with cultures very foreign to Europeans.

Our mission will take us to the International Space Station. There, people from many nations have served continuously in successive crews since November 2000, teaching and learning from one another about interactions and about how best to do things in that harsh environment. We have learned more about human physiology, including how the body responds to long periods of weightlessness. Those lessons will help us in planning more distant space voyages and promise medical benefits on Earth as well.

Maybe someday another Endeavour we now can only dream of will continue the spirit of exploration that the name represents, perhaps visiting new planets or even new star systems. We are certain that humanity will continue in the quest for new knowledge and new capabilities. There could be no finer examples of that quest than our two Endeavours.

The crew of the final flight of the Space Shuttle Endeavour wishes you a safe voyage with fair winds and following seas. We are proud that our Space Shuttle shares its name with your sailing vessel and all that it represents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mark E. Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "K".

Captain Mark E. Kelly
Commander, Space Shuttle Endeavour